

In re Patent Application of:
GRANT
Serial No. 10/781,977
Filing Date: FEBRUARY 19, 2004

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the thorough examination of the present application. Paragraph [0022] is amended to include reference character 112 thereby overcoming the objection to the drawings. Paragraph [0022] is also amended according to the Examiner's helpful suggestions to thereby overcome the objection to the specification.

Independent Claims 17 and 29, and dependent Claims 18, 19, 20, 21, 30, 31, 32, and 33, have been amended to more clearly define the subject matter thereof over the prior art. No new matter has been added. Amended independent Claim 17 further includes the subject matter of original dependent Claims 19 and 21 and paragraph [0028]. Similarly, independent Claim 29 further includes the subject matter of original dependent Claims 31 and 33 and paragraph [0028]. In addition, Claims 25-28 have been canceled, and Claims 22, 34, and 35 have been amended for consistency.

The patentability of the claims is discussed in greater detail below. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I. The Claimed Invention

Amended independent Claim 17, for example is directed to a semiconductor image sensor comprising a pixel including a photosensing portion and a silicide formation prevention coating thereon. The coating has a thickness to operate as an anti-

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reflective surface at a desired wavelength range so that the coating performs dual functions. Amended independent Claim 29 is a method counterpart to Claim 17.

II. The Claims Are Patentable

The Examiner rejected independent Claims 17 and 29 as unpatentable over the Fukaya et al. patent. The Examiner notes the Fukaya et al. patent discloses a semiconductor image sensor comprising a pixel including a photosensitive portion and a coating thereon. The Examiner also notes the dual functions of the coating must be distinguished from the prior art in terms of structure rather than function.

Amended independent Claim 17, for example, includes a silicide formation prevention coating on the photosensing portion, and the coating having a thickness to operate as an anti-reflective surface at a desired wavelength range so that the coating performs dual functions. The Fukaya et al. patent fails to disclose such. Instead, the Fukaya et al. patent discloses a protective layer that permits a color filter to be positioned without damaging the photosensitive part.

Furthermore, the claimed semiconductor image sensor comprises a pixel that includes a photosensing portion, and a silicide formation prevention coating thereon. Consequently, Claim 17 recites the structure of the claimed semiconductor image sensor. Amended independent Claim 29 includes recitations similar to Claim 17.

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Accordingly, amended independent Claims 17 and 29 are patentable. Their respective dependent claims, which recite further distinguishing features, are also patentable over the prior art and require no further discussion herein.

CONCLUSIONS

In view of the amendments to the claims and the arguments presented above, it is submitted that all of the claims are patentable. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested in due course. Should any minor informalities need to be addressed, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing correspondence has been forwarded via facsimile number 571-273-8300 to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 this 23rd day of November, 2005.

